·TAKE OUR TOUR· FULL Tilt POKER ·24/7 SUP

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DEPOSIT BONUS
UP TO $600
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Our Pledge

- We designed Full Tilt Poker to c best online poker experience.
- We play and chat with players e all levels, even play money.
- We are always thinking of new · make you a better poker player
- We are committed to having th most secure online poker site.
- We want you to join our team.

LIVE SITE UPDATE

7,465 Seated Players
2,670 Tables
353 Tournaments
PLAYING NOW

PROMOTIONS 1 2 3 4

IRON MAN CHALLENGE

Become Full Tilt Poker's next Iron Man and you could take home more than $100,000 in prize money.

more info

MEET TEAM FULL TILT

Howard Lederer	Phil Ivey
Chris Ferguson	John Juand
Jennifer Harman	Phil Gordo
Erick Lindgren	Erik Seidel
Clonie Gowen	Andy Bloch
Mike Matusow	

We play exclusively at Full Tilt Look for us online today.

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Online Poker at the Fastest Growing Online Poker Room

Full Tilt Poker offers the best in online poker: world famous pros, a huge bonus, real or play money. Play poker online now, it's free to downl our free online poker game 24 hours a day on state-of-the-art online poker software. Play for real money or for free in tournaments or ring g

Full Tilt Poker's online poker room was designed by world class poker professionals, and offers you the ability to learn, chat, and play online p with the pros.

Full Tilt Poker offers a wide variety of online poker games including No Limit Texas Holdem, Pot Limit Texas Hold Em, and Fixed Limit Texas H as well as varieties of Omaha, Stud, and Razz. We have ring games, Sit and Go tournaments, and multi-table tournaments. If you can find it i poker room, you can probably find it at Full Tilt Poker.

100% Sign up Bonus

Our online poker site features a deposit bonus of 100% up to $600. That's one of the largest bonus offers from any online poker room. And v frequent reload deposits, too. Download our free online poker game now and learn to play poker online.

Learn, Chat, and Play Poker with the Pros

Full Tilt Poker's online poker software was designed by top professional players to create the best online poker experience. Our poker profess chat and play with players every day at all levels, including play money poker tables. Our team of professional players is committed to having safest, most secure online poker site.

Start Playing Online Poker Now

Full Tilt Poker is the only online poker software designed to be compatible for both the PC and Macintosh platforms. You can start playing onli for play or real money in just a matter of minutes. **Click here** to download your free Full Tilt Poker software and start playing now.

Tilt

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ABOUT US

Founded in September 2003 with the goal of creating the best online poker experience anywhere, TiltWare LLC is a software development and marketing company based in Los Angeles. TiltWare, LLC currently provides exclusive software development and marketing consulting services for one of the world's fastest growing poker sites, Full Tilt Poker.

Designed in conjunction with some of the world's best poker players, including Phil Ivey, Howard Lederer, Chris "Jesus" Ferguson, Jennifer Harman, Phil Gordon, Erik Seidel, John Juanda, Erick Lindgren, Clonie Gowen, and Andy Bloch, the software provides players of all skill levels with a variety of game choices, including variants on Hold 'em, Omaha, Razz, and Stud. The software features leading-edge technology, superior graphics, a user-friendly interface, and customizable avatars and backgrounds.

Since its official release in June 2004, Full Tilt Poker has become one of the most successful and recognizable brands in online poker, and is the only online poker community that allows players to regularly learn, chat and play poker with 28 of world's best poker professionals.

TiltWare, LLC

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B

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WSOP Promotions
All Promotions
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Online Poker Forum

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June 12, 2006

Full Tilt Poker.com Issues an Open Letter to The Poker Industry in Response to The Mansion Poker Press Release Dated June 9th

Los Angeles, CA - The following is an open letter to the poker industry from Fulltiltpoker.com management in response to a Mansion Poker press release dated June 9, 2006.

"On June 9, 2006, Mansion Poker issued a false, misleading, and grossly inaccurate press release regarding their upcoming Mansion Superstar Challenge. The release stated that Team Full Tilt member, Phil Ivey is confirmed to participate in a series of elimination tournaments. This is untrue.

The improper release also stated that Team Full Tilt members Howard Lederer and Mike Matusow had been "...hand selected to fill the all-important shoes of poker "wingman". Again, this is untrue.

Unauthorized inclusion of these professional poker players' names demonstrates a blatant and dishonest attempt to illegally leverage the profiles of Team Full Tilt players and mislead the public. These actions are contemptible. Not only did Phil Ivey, Howard Lederer and Mike Matusow never agree to participate in this event in any way, they were not even contacted by Mansion Poker about participating.

A fourth member of Team Full Tilt, Jennifer Harman was in discussions to participate in the event, however, due to Mansion Poker's obvious disregard for the truth and egregious actions, she will no longer participate."

"Team Full Tilt," is a select group of the world's finest professional poker players, including Chris Ferguson, Phil Ivey, Howard Lederer, Jennifer Harman, Erick Lindgren, Erik Seidel, Andy Bloch, Phil Gordon, Clonie Gowen, John Juanda, and Mike Matusow. Full Tilt Poker offers players the unique opportunity to Learn, Chat and Play poker with the best poker pros in the game.

About Full Tilt Poker

Full Tilt Poker™ software was developed by TiltWare LLC, a software development and licensing company based in Los Angeles, California and licensed to Kolyma Corporation, A.V.V. which is regulated and licensed by the Kahnawake Gaming Commission in Canada. "Team Full Tilt," is a select group of the world's finest professional poker players, including Chris Ferguson, Phil Ivey, Howard Lederer, Jennifer Harman, Erick Lindgren, Erik Seidel, Andy Bloch, Phil Gordon, Clonie Gowen, John Juanda, and Mike Matusow. With innovative graphics, superior customer service and a safe, secure interface, the software is geared to enhance and personalize the online poker experience. Users of all skill levels can download the software at www.fulltiltpoker.com and can play for fun or for real money where

OTHER PRESS RELEASES:

May 12, 2006
Full Tilt Poke Smith Named Poker Tour Pl Year

May 2, 2006
Full Tilt Poke UK's Hendon Forces!

April 11, 2006
Full Tilt Poke Own the Felt and Foxwood

March 9, 2006
Full Tilt Poke Ferguson Fini Second at Na Heads-Up Pol Championshi

February 17, 2
Fulltiltpoker.! Strikes Again Unprecedent Series of Pok Promotion

February 3, 20
Full Tilt Poke D'Agostino ai Lindgren Turi Heat at the B Winter Poker

January 19, 20
Fulltiltpoker.i launches the Software dev specifically fc Users

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- online games of skill are permitted by law.

For more information please contact:
Michele Clayborne
On behalf of Full Tilt Poker
EMC-PR@verizon.net
310-451-1152

November 25,
Full Tilt Poke Ivey is on Fir the FullTiltPo Invitational L Monaco

November 23,
Full Tilt Poke Ivey Wins the Carlo Millions the Champion

November 21,
Full Tilt Poke Cunningham the Money at World Poker

November 10,
Full Tilt Poke Matusow Fini at World Seri Tournament (Champions

October 13, 20
Full Tilt Poke Brecher and Juanda Trum Competition States Poker Championshi

September 27,
Full Tilt Poke D'Agostino a Singer Reach Final Table at Poker Open

September 20,
Full Tilt Poke Ferguson Bec First Player t Multiple Worl Poker Circuit Championshi Tournaments

August 31, 200
FullTiltPoker. Up With FSN Groundbreak Television Se Students of P

August 16, 200
Full Tilt Poke Over $100,00 Boys & Girls Las Vegas

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SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS
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Welcome to Full Tilt Poker. You are only a few minutes away from playing poker on software designed by some of the world's best poker pros.

Full Tilt Poker is the **only online poker site** that offers native software specifically both PC and Mac users. To get started playing at Full Tilt Poker, click here to begin our free software. The download is approximately 9MB and will take approximately over a 56K modem or 1 minute over a DSL or cable modem.

Windows

Recommended Requirements

Windows 98 SE, ME, 2000 or XP
400MHz Pentium or faster CPU
128MB of RAM or more
Screen resolution of at least 800x600 or 1024x768 screen resolution with 16-bit color depth (High color)
Broadband connection
At least 15MB of free disk space

Minimum Requirements

Windows 98 SE, ME, 2000 or XP
266MHz Pentium or faster CPU
64MB of RAM or more
Screen resolution of at least 800x600 screen resolution with a minimum of 256 colors
Dialup connection
At least 15MB of free disk space

Made on a Mac

Recommended Requirements

Mac OS 10.3.9 or higher
PowerPC processor based system
800Mhz processor speed or faster
512 MB or more of RAM
Screen resolution of at least 800x600 or 1024x768 screen resolution with 16-bit color depth (High color)
Broadband connection
At least 10MB of free disk space

Minimum Requirements

Mac OS 10.3.9 or higher
800Mhz processor speed or faster
512 MB or more of RAM
Screen resolution of at least 800x600
Dialup connection
At least 10MB of free disk space

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Designed for Microsoft Windows XP

For Microsoft Internet Explorer:

1. Click on "Download & Play Now" button to start the download and select "O or "Run" on the pop-up window.
2. Internet Explorer will automatically launch the Setup program once the download is complete. Follow the directions to finish the install.
3. Once the software is installed, double-click the "Full Tilt Poker" icon on your desktop, or run it from your Start menu. You'll connect to the Lobby, listing all the games.

Netscape & other browsers:

1. Click on "Download & Play Now" button.
2. When your browser gives you a "Save as" prompt, choose an easy to find f the file in (i.e., "poker download"). Click the "Save" button to start the dow
3. Once the download is complete, locate the folder you chose for the downlo on the "FullTiltSetup" icon to begin the installation.
4. If you can't find the Setup icon after the download is complete, click on Sta Files or Folders and then type in "FullTiltSetup" in the "Named" box. When appears in the results box, double-click it and follow the instructions to con install.
5. Once the software is installed, double-click the Full Tilt Poker logo on your run it from your Start menu. You'll connect to the Lobby listing all the gam

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For detailed information regarding Full Tilt Poker for the Mac, click here.
1. Click on the "Download & Play Now" button. This should automatically begi download process.

2. If the program prompts you to begin downloading, press the "Continue" bu Otherwise, wait until the download finishes and open the .DMG file to spaw up window.
3. Double click the "FullTiltSetup" icon and follow the instructions to install the software on your machine.
4. Once the software is installed, double-click the Full Tilt Poker logo within "A to connect to the Lobby listing all the games.

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Online Poker Forum at Full Tilt Poker

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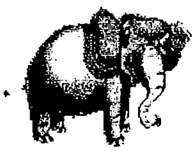
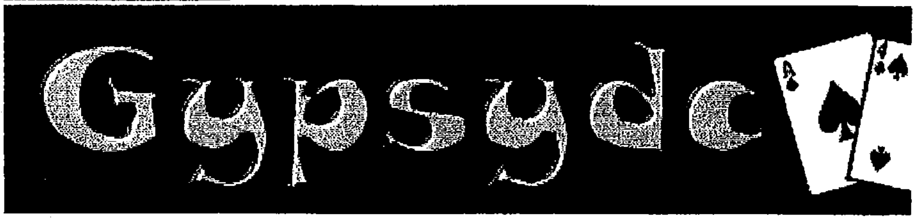
Online Poker Forum - A Trip to Las Vegas

Goto page Previous 1, 2

new topic | post reply | **Online Poker Forum Home -> Player's Lounge**

View previous topic :: View next topic

Author	Message
sloshedzeus High Card  Joined: 27 May 2006 Posts: 13 Location: N. Las Vegas	Posted: Thu Jun 01, 2006 9:38 pm Post subject: I work for a casino in Las Vegas and probably could set up some private tornaments to do something like that. I would need to know the number of people and the times wanted to play well in advance. Once I have all that I just have to get the okay from tournaments should be no problem. I can be reached at aintnoaddress@yahoo.com _________________ I must complain the cards are ill shuffled till I have a good hand. ~Jonathan Swift
Back to top	profile
Gypsydc Forum Pro Joined: 03 Nov 2005 Posts: 1167 Location: Costa Mesa, CA	Posted: Fri Jun 02, 2006 9:18 am Post subject: Thanks Slosh, I sent you an email. _________________  "Freedom is just another word for nothin' left to lose." -Janis Joplin (Me & Bobby McGee)
Back to top	profile

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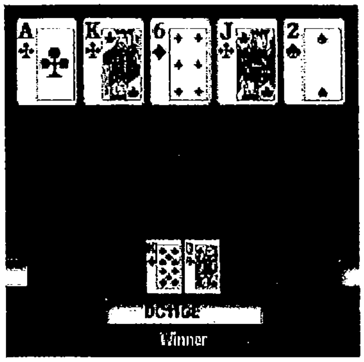
DC11GE
Royal Flush

Joined: 03 Mar 2006
Posts: 817
Location: Hollywood, CA

Posted: Fri Jun 02, 2006 7:07 pm Post subject:

YO Slosh, that'd be awesome. I'm down with that.

The red ones taste like burning



www.myspace.com/gettingevenmusic

Go ahead and check it out, you'll hate it.

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new topic post reply **Online Poker Forum Home -> Player's Lounge**

All
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Page 2 of 2

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Jump to: Player's Lounge

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PLAY POKER ONLINE DOWNLOAD NOW!

May 21, 2004

Tiltware, LLC And World Famous Poker Players Launch Full Tilt Poker - The Next Generation of Online Poker Software

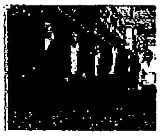
Los Angeles, CA - TiltWare, LLC, a Los Angeles-based software design and licensing company, has announced the launch of Full Tilt Poker, advanced software that will take online poker playing to the next level. Currently in Beta testing and officially released in June 2004, Full Tilt Poker will offer superior graphics, sophisticated technology and user-friendly features that will ultimately enhance the online poker experience. The software was designed by some of the world's finest and most notable poker players, including Andy Bloch, Chris Ferguson, Phil Gordon, Clonie Gowen, Phil Ivey, John Juanda, Howard Lederer, Erick Lindgren and Erik Seidel, also known as "Team Full Tilt." Full Tilt software will give users of all skill levels the opportunity to play against these poker champions for fun or for real money where online games of skill are permitted.

Team Full Tilt joined executives from TiltWare in a press conference this morning at the Plaza Hotel and Casino in Downtown Las Vegas to formerly announce the launch of FullTiltPokerFull Tilt Poker. Revealed today, Full Tilt Poker software has been released in Beta format offering poker fans five popular games to play for free. By June 2004, Full Tilt Poker will offer real money games and tournaments through its licensee Vert Enterprises Inc. in areas where online games of skill are permitted. By the release date, Vert Enterprises will be licensed and regulated by the Kahnawake Gaming Commission in Canada.

"Our entire team is passionate about poker and is intrigued by this cultural phenomenon that is sweeping the country," said Bob Wolf, chief marketing officer of TiltWare, LLC. "We ultimately formed TiltWare to develop better, more effective online poker software, but could never have been successful without the expertise and talent of some of the world's leading poker players that comprise Team Full Tilt. Together, we are making online poker a fun, seamless and secure experience.

The Team Full Tilt members have all made commitments to contribute their time and energy teaching others how to become better poker players, as well as increase their enjoyment of the game. Users can play against Team Full Tilt members for free by logging onto Full Tilt Poker and joining the game. Laws and regulations permitting and when users feel ready, they can also play against Team Full Tilt members in low-stake, real money games, courtesy of Vert Enterprises. Any money won by Team Full Tilt members in those games will be donated to an international charity by Vert Enterprises.

"I, along with the rest of Team Full Tilt, are thrilled to be involved in the development of the Full Tilt Poker site and encourage more poker fans to take the game online," said Chris Ferguson, 2000 World Series Poker Champion and Team Full Tilt member. "As the site caters to not only poker enthusiasts, but also to beginners who may feel intimidated to play in a casino, Full Tilt Poker will allow users of all skill levels to become involved in the game and learn from real champions."



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June 12, 2006
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Full Tilt's site features were developed by top poker players to ensure ease-of-use and maximum enjoyment. The site is designed to ensure immediate, real-time playing and a stable interface, as well as offers interactive capabilities that allow users to instant message and communicate during each game. When users play Full Tilt Poker, they can alter the background graphics to different themes, as well as select a graphic "Avatar" or animated persona that can change emotion and best represents them at the table. By June 2004, TiltWare will provide its first licensee, Vert Enterprises, Inc., with a complete software suite and Vert Enterprises will then offer real money games and tournaments in areas where online games of skill are permitted.

"Team Full Tilt," is a select group of the world's finest professional poker players, including Chris "Jesus" Ferguson, Phil Ivey, Howard Lederer, Jennifer Harman, Erick Lindgren, Erik Seidel, Andy Bloch, Phil Gordon (co-host, Celebrity Poker Showdown), Clonie Gowen, John Juanda and others. Full Tilt Poker offers players the unique opportunity to play, chat, and learn with the best in the game. Full Tilt Poker's 27 professional players have a total of 39 World Series of Poker bracelets.

About Full Tilt Poker

Full Tilt Poker™ software was developed by TiltWare LLC, a software development and licensing company based in Los Angeles, California and licensed to Kolyma Corporation, A.V.V. which is regulated and licensed by the Kahnawake Gaming Commission in Canada. "Team Full Tilt," is a select group of the world's finest professional poker players, including Chris "Jesus" Ferguson, Phil Ivey, Howard Lederer, Jennifer Harman, Erick Lindgren, Erik Seidel, Andy Bloch, Phil Gordon (co-host, Celebrity Poker Showdown), Clonie Gowen, John Juanda and others. With innovative graphics, superior customer service and a safe, secure interface, the software is geared to enhance and personalize the online poker experience. Users of all skill levels can download the software at Full Tilt Poker and can play for fun or for real money where online games of skill are permitted by law.

For more information please contact:
Michele Clayborne
On behalf of Full Tilt Poker
EMC-PR@verizon.net
310-451-1152

Winter Poker

January 19, 2C
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November 10,
Full Tilt Poke
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SEARCH THE SUN: SEARCH NOW

LAS VEGAS SUN

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February 12, 2006

Jeff Simpson wonders why there's no crackdown on state's Internet poker players

Tens of thousands of Nevadans routinely break state gaming laws by illegally playing online poker, but the state's gaming cops don't seem to care.

Nevada is one of the few states to have enacted laws making it illegal to gamble online. Web casino operators contend that their operations don't violate federal law - an assertion disputed by the Justice Department - but even if an ongoing legal battle backs the Web casinos' point of view, it clearly remains illegal for Nevadans to gamble on the Internet.

But tens of thousands do - and it's no wonder. The state doesn't advertise the fact that Nevadans routinely break the law. The state doesn't warn its citizens against playing poker for money on the Internet.

Many of those players think that they are playing legally.

And you can't blame them.

There are hundreds of commercials for online poker sites running on the dozens of poker television shows that air in Las Vegas every week.

The biggest Web poker sites accept bets from the United States, and they admit that more than half of their revenues come from U.S. players.

The nation's top poker magazine is chock full of Internet casino ads. Card Player is owned and published here, and is distributed for free in many Las Vegas poker rooms.

Ads for the top Web poker sites, PartyPoker, PokerStars, Paradise Poker, UltimateBet and Full Tilt, run alongside ads for poker rooms at Bellagio, Aladdin, MGM Grand and Mirage.

Card Player's Feb. 1 issue featured 21 full pages of online poker advertising in the magazine's 156 pages. Las Vegas casino poker rooms bought fewer than

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10 full pages of ads.

The game's leading players, many of whom live in Las Vegas, tout the Web sites that sponsor them and invite players to play against them online.

In one Card Player ad, former World Series of Poker world champion Phil Hellmuth pitches a poker school at Caesars Palace that ended last week. "Camp Hellmuth" was sponsored by UltimateBet.

In a two-page ad, former WSOP champ Doyle Brunson's web site, DoylesRoom.com quotes Brunson: "Get your place at the table with me and some of my friends." If a player knocks Brunson or his son Todd, both Las Vegas residents, out of one of the site's bounty tournaments, the player collects $250.

All of the online poker ads carry fine print disclaimers at the bottom. The DoylesRoom disclaimer: "Enjoy our free games, and before playing in our real-money games, please check with your local jurisdiction regarding the legality of Internet gaming."

What a joke. These sites know that they are breaking the law by allowing Nevadans to play poker online for money.

But the money's too good to follow the law.

And the money's too good for Card Player to make the advertisers note that playing online is illegal - at least in Nevada.

But why do the poker rooms provide the magazines that are full of ads enticing Nevadans to break the law?

Why don't gaming regulators act to stop the casinos from distributing the magazines? And why doesn't law enforcement prosecute Nevada poker pros who freely admit in print and Web ads, in interviews and on their online blogs, that they play Internet poker for money?

State regulators say that they're taking a wait-and-see approach to Internet poker, hoping that the federal government takes action against the Web sites.

But while regulators fiddle, these offshore scofflaws thumb their noses at Nevada, raking in big bucks and making lawbreakers out of our citizens.

Jeff Simpson can be reached at 259-4083 or at simpson@lasvegassun.com.

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A member of the Greenspun Media Group, publishers of: In Business, Las Vegas Life, Las Vegas Magazine, Las Vegas Weekl Ralston/Flash, Vegas Golfer, VEGAS Magazine, Vegas.com

LAS VEGAS

October 14,2005

Volume 7 Issue 11 "I may disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." --Voltaire

ENTERTAINMENT

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Easy money, easier addiction?

HOWARD STUTZ
Gaming Wire

On an ordinary afternoon at the UNLV Lied Library, students crowded the personal computer stations.

Some typed keywords into search engines; others scanned Web sites for research information.

Several students used the computers to write papers and complete class work, while others checked e-mail or bid on items on eBay.

On one of the library's second-floor computers, University of Nevada, Las Vegas hotel management student Ryan Mhor tried to force "OttawaNick" into folding his hand during a round of Texas hold 'em Internet poker.

Mhor, a junior from New York City, was waiting for his girlfriend, when he logged on to PokerRoom.com, paid a $2 entry fee and joined an online poker game with 113 other players, competing for a top prize of more than $1,500. The online site kicked in $4,000 to beef up the prize money in the tournament-style format.

While the student at the computer next to him was researching Greek mythology, Mhor was competing in a fast-action, no-limit hold 'em tournament, with initial wagers of $75 and $150.

Mhor had a little more than $900 in chips in front of him -- far less than the other players -- when he drew hole cards ace-nine of different suits. He then tried to scare others out of the hand.

Only "OttawaNick" stayed in and, after several large wagers, Mhor's ace-high held up, and he more than doubled his chip count.

All the while, students at other computer terminals in the library completed their class work.

At computer stations across the UNLV campus that afternoon, as well as on student-owned laptop computers with wireless connections, Internet poker was the game of choice. In dorm rooms and fraternity houses, students report that online poker is fast becoming an accepted activity.

"I don't play, but a lot of my friends play all the time," said UNLV student body President Peter Goatz. "Walk around in the student center, and you'll always see people playing. It's common for people to play for an hour or two because it just gives them something to do."

Internet sites such as PartyPoker, PokerStars, PokerRoom, Bodog and

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Full Tilt Poker have taken over as the student relaxation activity of the 21st century on college campuses throughout the United States.

Build your li
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Factor

For Mhor, Internet poker might consume about 15 to 20 hours a week, but it's also a pursuit that might add a few dollars to his wallet.

"I play when I'm just sitting around, like today," said Mhor, who also chats occasionally on his wireless phone. "I try not to

play too much because I realize it can be pretty addictive. I have to catch myself every now and then."

Sean Holmquist, a UNLV senior majoring in hotel management and public relations, said he might spend an hour or two a day playing Internet poker. He'll invest $20 to $50 into an online account and jump into a game. He too views online poker as a potential moneymaking endeavor.

Holmquist said he became a fan of the game after watching televised poker events. Lately, he's used Internet poker as a training ground before he ventures into a Las Vegas casino poker room.

"The reason I play is because it's easy money," Holmquist said. "The potential is there to make a few dollars, and it's relaxing. You can eat or watch television or do whatever while you play. I think that's what makes the game attractive."

UNLV junior Luis Cacho sat at a computer terminal in the Moyer Student Union, hanging out between classes and playing a free online game at PartyPoker.net as preparation for a trip to a casino poker room.

Cacho said he plays only on the free sites to build his skills.

"It's a hobby, and I started playing with friends," he said. "The free sites give you good practice."

Leif Norcott, a student monitor in the Fong Computer Laboratory in Beam Hall, said students use the equipment mainly for schoolwork. But every now and then, he said, he'll catch a student playing online poker or other games, and he'll ask them to stop.

"It's happening all over campus," Norcott said. "Everyone is playing poker online."

Some researchers believe the growth of Internet poker on college campuses may start a wave of graduates making a risky professional choice. Budding poker players may believe they can make a career out of the game.

But Keith Winters, a psychiatry professor at the University of Minnesota who has studied wagering habits in young people, notes that poker is akin to sports played by professional athletes -- only a handful out of the thousands who dream of professional wealth will develop the skills to take them to the top of the game.

"I'm wondering if Internet poker is going to create a generation of young people that will drift toward this as a profession much in the way online investing occurred in the mid- to late 1990s," Winters said. "There seems to be more Internet poker players out there, and this seems to be similar to the idea behind online investing, gambling to try and make a quick buck."

Internet poker on college campuses is a somewhat new phenomenon, and research into the habits of students playing the game is still mostly anecdotal.

Horror stories, such as students gambling away tuition money in online poker games or missing classes because they won't get up from the table during an online tournament, are starting to surface. Some are urban myths, but others may bear some truth.

"It's so new and early in the research that it's hard to jump on board," Winters said. "You have so many players that try to get in and win a fast buck that this is where a problem can begin."

Steven Oster, a staff counselor in student counseling and psychological services at UNLV, said he hears tales from students about classmates playing Internet poker on laptops during lectures. But he says he hasn't seen many students come in for counseling and treatment.

"We see the students with alcohol addictions and eating disorders, but the kids with problems gambling on the Internet haven't shown up because they may not realize it is a problem," Oster said.

"They don't see gambling in the same light as they do other addictive behaviors. That may be a growing concern."

Arnie Wexler, a New Jersey-based certified compulsive gambling counselor who beat his own addiction 37 years ago, said poker as well as the Internet have created a new class of problem gamblers.

Potential addictions to poker, especially Internet poker, worry him because on college campuses, Wexler said, "it's easier to place a bet than to buy beer."

"I'm getting the calls now from moms and dads who are seeing the problem firsthand. Probably one-third of the people calling are under age 25. It's so easy to get up at 2 or 3 in the morning and go online and wager. It's something we need to get a handle around," he added.

Wexler presents workshops and training seminars, speaks to gaming executives and legislative bodies, and has trained National Football League staff on gaming issues. He is philosophical because Internet gaming is already widespread.

"Education is all you can really do," he said.

INTERNET POKER

IS BIG BUSINESS

The question of whether Internet poker is entrenched into the fabric of our culture was answered in late June.

British-based PartyGaming, the online site that oversees perceived industry leader PartyPoker.com, went public on the London Stock

Exchange and shot up 11 percent during trading. Closing the day with a market value of more than $9 billion, PartyGaming was suddenly on par financially with traditional casino gaming companies such as Wynn Resorts Ltd. and Harrah's Entertainment.

Other poker Web site operators have made noise about initial public offerings in the European stock markets.

PokerPulse.com, an online racking site for the Internet poker industry, estimated that the number of online poker sites has grown from 30 in 2002 to well over 300.

According to PokerPulse, almost 2 million people a day log on to an Internet poker gambling site. Of those players, 70 percent to 80 percent are residents of the United States.

Christiansen Capital Advisors, a Connecticut-based research firm, forecast that $9.9 billion would be wagered online this year, up from $7.5 billion last year. That figure includes sports betting and traditional casino games.

The firm said $2.4 billion was wagered on Internet poker last year, and it predicts the amount will double this year.

In September, PokerStars.com completed a 15-event World Championship of Online Poker, which offered nearly $13 million in total prize money. Initial entry fees of $15 to $100 helped attract almost 20,000 players.

Definitive financial figures on Internet poker are not kept, and most estimates are based on what Web sites will disclose publicly.

In its IPO, PartyGaming.com said it had revenues of more than $602 million last year, 92 percent of which came from its PartyPoker.com site. The company expected to have revenues of $992 million this year, with a similar percentage coming from poker.

Calvin Ayre, the founder of Bodog.com, which has operated online sports wagering for 10 years and opened a poker Web site a year ago, said the poker room already takes in as much in wagers as the rest of the online casino combined.

Though the number of Internet poker sites has grown, Ayre said he didn't think all of them would last long.

"I really don't consider poker

a fad," Ayre said. "People see it as a form of entertainment, so there is much more acceptance. There has been such a land grab for poker space online, I think the market will level off, and the companies left standing will be the ones with strong brands and strong values. Players have to believe in the quality of the product being offered."

At this summer's World Series of Poker, a four-day poker trade show was held that looked like a scaled down version of a gambling-oriented Consumer Electronics Show. More than 50,000 attendees mingled with exhibitors who included representatives of most of the major Internet poker gaming sites.

The trade show gave many operators a chance to meet their customers face to face.

"There are a lot of choices now for the player," said Dan Goldman, the vice president of marketing for PokerStars.com. "For us to stand out, we have to be able to give the player the features, the games and the poker innovations to keep them coming back."

Wagers can be as low as a penny, and the major sites will beef up players' bankrolls to tempt their interest.

Because of the low-denomination games, Internet site operators say they believe they are able to keep players from overextending themselves.

"Internet poker is an accepted

form of entertainment," said Raymond Bitar, the chief executive officer of Tiltware, which developed and operates Full Tilt Poker. "The industry is very competitive, and we don't want underage players."

Unlike the casino industry, which has the backing of the American Gaming Association and the organization's annual problem gambling awareness and education program, Internet poker has no such organization, nor an educational effort.

Some sites offer messages concerning problem gaming. Full Tilt Poker, for example, has a link to Gamblers Anonymous.

Wexler, who has talked with representatives of online poker sites about training programs for employees, said, "They don't want to cater to compulsive gamblers, but they don't know how to handle it."

Many Internet poker rooms offer free-play sites, using the dot-net address ending (such as PokerStars.net), which allow prospective players to get in for free and test the system. Eventually, the operators hope, players will advance to the full-fledged online gambling sites.

The free sites also allow the online poker industry to market itself to the public as "educational" dot-nets.

As such, online poker advertising through the dot-nets have become common, especially in
sports magazines, on sports talk radio and sports-related television networks, such as ESPN and Fox Sports.

During the World Series of Poker, Full Tilt sponsored a live one-table poker tournament from Wynn Las Vegas that was televised on Fox Sports Net and featured well-known players.

Online poker operators say the responsibility of verifying a gambler's age and financial characteristics lies with the Internet money-handling services.

Many of the most recognizable names in competitive poker, such as two-time World Series of Poker champion Doyle "Texas Dolly" Brunson, have their own Internet poker sites. DoylesRoom.com is licensed in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, and was introduced during this summer's World Series of Poker.

Other well-known players, such as Eric Seidel, former World Poker champion Chris "Jesus" Ferguson and Phil Ivey, have sponsorships with FullTiltPoker.com, a Web site that promises players a chance to play against its stable of professionals.

IMITATING THE PROS

It's the idea of people emulating poker stars that worries counselors and psychiatric professionals.

Winters said that when college students see average players making money in online poker, they see themselves in a similar position.

"They think it's the common man kind of deal," he said. "It's a little bit like someone winning the lottery. It doesn't sort out the highest skilled person."

Wexler said that when young gamblers lose big, they turn to their parents for help. It's a mistake, he said, to bail young adults out of their gambling debts.

"You're not going to buy a drug addict drugs or an alcoholic beer, so why give someone with a gambling problem more money," Wexler said. "I go to recovery groups now, and I see them coming in younger and younger. Get them help and treatment. That's the best way to take care of the problem."

THE MONEYMAKER-RAYMER FACTOR

Perhaps the biggest turning point in the growth of Internet poker was the back-to-back world poker championship titles won in 2003 and 2004 by Chris Moneymaker and Greg Raymer, which fed the desires of Internet poker players and fueled a simmering online poker fire.

Both gained entry into the World Series via online poker, winning seats in the $10,000 buy-in no-limit Texas hold 'em world championship.

The aptly named Moneymaker, an accountant in Nashville, Tenn., turned a $39 investment in a PokerStars.com tournament into the 2003 World Series of Poker championship and a $2.5 million paycheck.

A year later, Raymer, a Connecticut patent attorney, also won a seat in the world championship event through PokerStars.com and captured the title and $5 million.

"Those two victories really put us on the map," said PokerStars' Goldman. "The Internet players know us, and we gained a larger audience through Chris and Greg."

Moneymaker, who was predominantly an online player and hadn't spent much time in a casino poker room, beat two well-known high-stakes poker veterans to win the world title and give hope to all Internet players.

Today, he said, he makes more money through endorsements than he does playing poker. He plays a few live tournaments during the year, and he still plays online 15 to 20 hours a week.

"It's easy for me to go out any time of day and make some money online because there are so many bad players out there," Moneymaker said. "Of the people playing online now, a good percentage will say they're going to make a career out of it. But only about one-half of 1 percent will actually succeed."

He said players online try too quickly to build a bankroll and get into trouble.

"It's a tough way to make a living, but I'm not surprised by the growth in Internet poker," Moneymaker said. "My nephews are 8 and 9, and they want to learn how to play poker. It's a very popular game right now."

Unlike Moneymaker, Raymer had more than a dozen years of experience in live poker rooms. He had already planned to enter

the World Series when he won a seat through the Internet.

"If you want to learn, start out with the free games and work your way up," he said. "Too many people try to jump up too quickly. They play online and then go to a casino and get it all thrown up their face."

THE LAW SCHOOL STUDENT

Following up on its backing of Moneymaker and Raymer, PokerStars.com qualified and paid the entry fees for 1,116 players of the 5,619 who entered the World Series of Poker's final event this summer.

One player, Brad Kondracki, a 24-year-old University of Pennsylvania law student, made it to the final table, finishing in eighth place and winning $1.15 million.

Unlike college students today, Kondracki said he didn't start playing poker online while he was an undergraduate at Cornell University.

Instead, he took a year off between Cornell and Pennsylvania to experiment with the online game.

"I'm glad I didn't get into it until after college," Kondracki said. "I think the prospect of making as much money per hour as I did washing dishes in the fraternity house for $50 a week would have been discouraging. I know kids now making quadruple that online."

Kondracki had played only two years when he qualified for the World Series. He began with a $100 bankroll on

PokerStars.com and never had to add anything to keep the account alive.

"I started out just playing pennies and worked my way up," he said.

Now in his second year of law school, Kondracki said his World Series finish was "big news" around the campus and it allowed him to think about his future.

He plays online poker about 15 hours a week, he said, but he isn't going to make the game his profession. He's starting to interview for jobs next summer and plans to finish law school.

"I still like playing and the money is good, but I'm being pretty selective about what events I play in," he said.

WHO'S NEXT?

It's the success stories like Moneymaker, Raymer and Kondracki that worry Wexler, knowing that for those three winners, there are 300 to 3,000 players who will become losers.

"I talk with students all the time, and I know we can't stop Internet gaming, but the kids need to understand the addictive nature of this game," the compulsive gambling counselor said, adding that it takes a few years for gambling addictions to emerge.

Oster, the UNLV counselor, echoed those concerns. Because Internet poker is still in its infancy, the research into problem gambling online is behind the curve.

"I think it's a matter of time before we start seeing these issues really surface," he said.

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